

N. C. Murdock

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Among the pioneer settlers of Wasatch county none, perhaps, are better known or more highly respected than is Nymphas C. Murdock. It might well be said of him that he is the founder and guardian of the thriving little town of Charleston, for he has been the director of affairs in that town from almost its first settlement and has guarded its interests and development with a jealous eye and a steady hand.

He was the first postmaster of Charleston, and gave a bond as such in the sum of $1,500, although the compensation did not exceed five dollars for the first year. It was not the emoluments that he was seeking, but he was interested in the growth, development, and building up of Charleston and aware of the fact that progress cannot be expected in any town without a postoffice.

The first store in Charleston was started by Mr. Murdock and his five or six neighbor families, with a fifty dollar stock of goods. This was the embryo from which has sprung the Charleston Co-op of today, doing an annual business of about $40,000. He has always been one of the leaders in the community and taken a prominent part in every entertainment, whether public or private, calculated to further the interest, growth, and development of Charleston and Wasatch county.

When the Charleston ward was organized, he was chosen as its first bishop, a position he held until about five years ago, when he was promoted to the high ecclesiastical position of Patriarch.

He is a son of Joseph and Sally Murdock and was born May 12, 1833, at Hamilton, New York. His parents embraced the Gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1838, and with them he joined the main body of saints at Kirtland, Ohio. From that time on the history of his life is almost identic[illegible] ith the history of the churc[illegible] member ... saints who western desert and reached Salt Lake City September 22, 1847, and that fall assisted in making adobes for the old fort wall.

He became a member of the second company of militia, known as minute men, under Captain Calister, in 1850. He continued in the service and took part in all the Indian wars up to and including the Black Hawk war, the final scenes of which took place in this valley.

He moved his family to this county in 1862, and purchased the claim of George W. Bean, which embraced the greater part of the river bottom from Charleston to the old "Ritchie" ranch, distance of about a mile and a half.

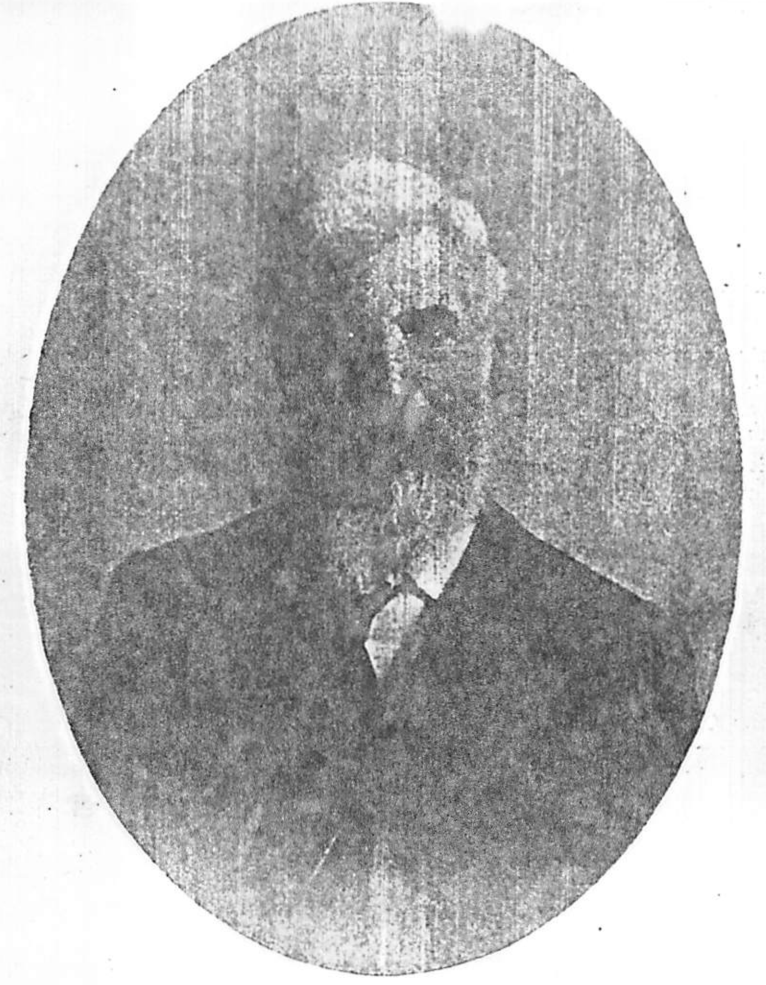
His experience in the early persecutions and hardships of pioneer life in Salt Lake valley and later in helping to subdue the wilderness of this valley, equipped him admirably to become the leader, adviser, and counselor that he has been to his fellow-citizens of this county. Many have been greatly benefited by listening to the counsel and taking the advice of "Uncle Nif." Whenever there was work to do his motto has always been to start out saying: "Come on boys," and they always came.

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The best description we have seen of Provo valley is the following from Tullidge's History of Utah:

"The valley is beautifully located: it is so complete—so beautiful, romantic and picturesque: some of its sylvan glades, sandwiched between the ancient hills, seem to almost rival in grandeur the home of the Swiss. Surrounded entirely by mountains; some of them are rolling; they recede and rise gradually, while others ascend more abruptly, and their snow-capped peaks appear to kiss the sky. The valley is almost completely round, and is in shape like a deep, symmetrically formed bowl. From any of the mountain heights is obtained a magnificent view of the country, and from some of them the prospect is extended to othe[illegible] leys north and south, and

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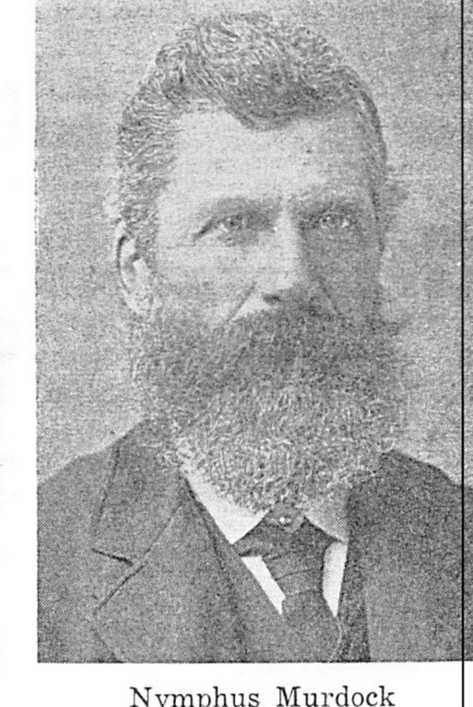
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Sarah Melissa died May 21, 1911 at Heber City. Esther Mariah died November 12, 1909.

He ate many meals in the Prophet Joseph Smith's home.

In Nauvoo, his father Joseph died, but his mother Sally promised she would bring her son to the valley with the saints. He came with others in 1846 to the banks of the Missouri river. He drove a yoke of oxen, one of which was a cow, with the Ira Eldridge Company, bringing sheep and flax seed and many things to help. They left Winter Quarters for the great western desert and reached Salt Lake City September 22, 1847.

Brigham Young alloted them ground where the Newhouse Hotel now stands. Here they built a two-story adobe home, with a garden plot where Liberty Park now is. He assisted building adobe for the old fort wall. They were there when Johnston's Army came and homes were deserted. Also, they lost their crops when the crickets came. Here Nymphus married Sarah Malissa Barney in the old Endowment House. Later he married Esther Mariah Davies also in the old Endowment House. They lived for some time with Sally Stacy. Later ground was purchased in Charleston and two homes built there. At Charleston he had a store and was the first postmaster, also first owner in the first creamery. When stakes were made in 1877 he was made Bishop of Charleston and served for 14 years. He was kin[d] and generous, also very thrifty and encour[aged] all to learn to work. They called hi[m] uncle Nif. He loaned many people mone[y] to bring their loved ones to America. I[n] 1888 he and others went by team to the ded[i]cation of the Manti Temple. His daught[er] Ella and son Fredrick went too. He fille[d] a mission to the Eastern States. He was a member of the Legislature of the State of Utah. He was a member of the second company of militia known as the Minute Men, and continued service and took part in the Black Hawk War.

Nymphus Cordion Murdock and Sarah Malissa Barney had four children: Nymphus Coridon, Sarah Malissa, Joseph Royal, Betsy Emeline.

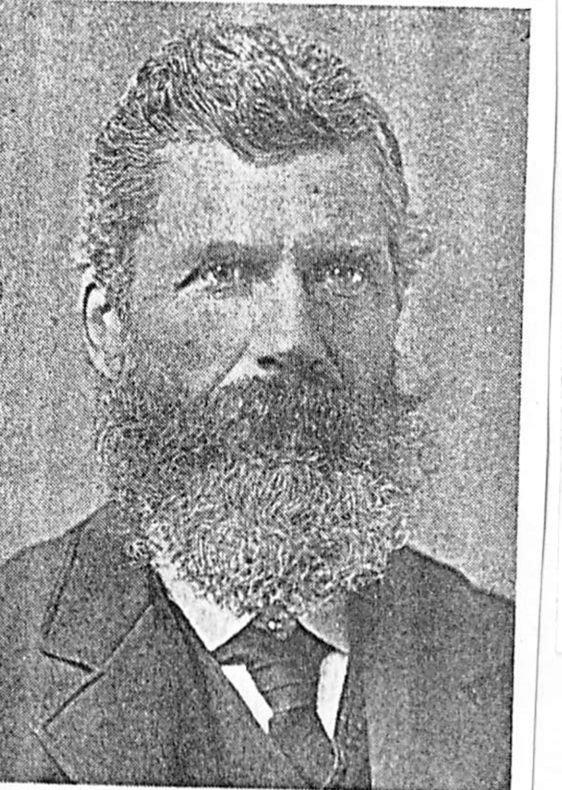
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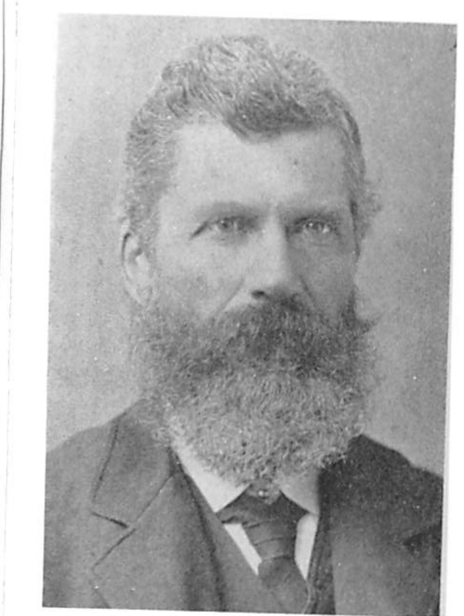
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SARAH MELISSA B. MURDOCK

Sarah Melissa Barney Murdock was born March 30, 1832 at Lorain County, Ohio, daughter of Royal and Sarah B. E. Barney. Married to Nymphus C. Murdock, October 30, 1852. Died May 21, 1911 at Heber City.

Sarah Melissa Barney Murdock was the first wife of Patriarch Nymphus C. Murdock. She moved to Nauvoo in the early days and arrived in Salt Lake City in 1850, with the ox team company, having walked all the way across the plains. She was the mother of four children, two sons and two daughters. Three of the children died in the year 1863, leaving her with an only son, Joseph R. Murdock, who was president of the Wasatch Stake. She was a faithful member of the Church, and for a number of years was counselor and president of the Relief Society of the Charleston Ward.

ESTHER MARIAH DAVIES MURDOCK



Esther Mariah Davies was born March 13, 1838 at Pickerington, Canada, daughter of Franklin Judson Davies and Ann Richmond. Married Nymphas Coridon Murdock

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Esther Mariah Davies, was the second wife of Nymphas Coridon Murdock. When a child, her father owned a sugar bush. They made syrup and brown sugar.

They later came to Nauvoo. Her father taught school and was a wheelwright by trade. Brigham Young had him stay in Nauvoo to help make wheels and wagons. Her mother died on the way to Salt Lake.

In Salt Lake she later worked as a milliner. They always divided food with others and Brigham Young promised her father that neither they, nor their childrens' children should ever want for bread.

She married Nymphus Coridon Murdock in Salt Lake Endowment House December 6, 1857. They were alloted land by Brigham Young where the Newhouse Hotel stands. They built a two-story adobe home there.

She was the mother of nine children.

She always found time to help others. In the summer she and her children used to take the dairy cows up to the big spring in Deckers Canyon. She made wonderful butter and cheese. She was president of the Young Women's Mutual for some time. She and others often sat under the Dry Creek bridge patting their babies all night to keep them from crying for fear of Indians. 1031

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Nymphas Warren Murdock, whose well ordered ranch estate is situated three miles west of the village of Fruitland, Duchesne County, was born at Charleston, Wasatch County, Utah, June 17, 1887, a son of Joseph R. and Margaret (Wright) Murdock, and grandson of N. C. and Melissa (Barney) Murdock and of William and Jemima Wright, the latter of whom were pioneer settlers in Salt Lake City, whence they later removed to Charleston, Wasatch County, where they passed the closing years of their lives. Joseph R. Murdock was born in Salt Lake City, and his father, N. C. Murdock, was born and reared in the State of New York, whence he came to Utah in the latter part of the 1840 decade and established residence in Salt Lake City, he having been the owner of the land on which now stands the Walker Building in that city and after his removal to Charleston having served as bishop of the local stake of the Church of Latter Day Saints and as president of the stake for a period of thirty years. He was a merchant, agriculturist and grower of live stock.

Joseph R. Murdock, now a resident of Salt Lake City, has been a man of broad and varied activities and has been constructively

—Alter Vol III

associated with irrigation projects, ranch enterprise and mercantile business. He has maintained residence in Salt Lake City during the past fifteen or more years, but was long an influential citizen of Wasatch County and served twenty-five years as bishop and stake president of the Wasatch Stake of the Church of Latter Day Saints, he having previously served the church as counselor to his father at Charleston. He represented Wasatch County as a member of both the House and Senate of the Utah Legislature.

Nymphas W. Murdock attended school at Heber City and in 1907 was graduated in Brigham Young University. Thereafter he served for a time as bookkeeper in a mercantile establishment, but during a period of fully fifteen years he has been one of the successful representatives of modern ranch industry in the Fruitland district of Duchesne County, where he gives attention to sheep growing and to diversified agriculture. He holds the office of elder in the Church of Latter Day Saints, for which he served a mission in the northern states in 1910.

In 1908 Mr. Murdock wedded Miss Emma C. Hicken, who is now deceased, and the children of this union are Mrs. Fay Hilton, Joseph O., Fern, John, Carl, Norma, Barney and Catherine. June 26, 1929, recorded the marriage of Mr. Murdock to Mrs. Henrietta (Perry) Angle, and their one child is a son, Nymphas. Of the three children of Mrs. Murdock's first marriage Thora is living and Glenn and Georgia are deceased.